

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A small sized information device lending management system comprising:

a client terminal connected to a network; and

5 a server terminal also connected to said network and to which a small sized information device can be connected using a cable or radio waves;

wherein said client terminal transmits information related to reservation for lending said small sized
10 information device, which information is inputted by a user, to said server terminal via said network;

said server terminal receives the information related to reservation from said client terminal, judges whether reservation for lending said small sized information device
15 can be registered or not in accordance with the received information, and if it is judged that the reservation can be registered, registers the reservation and transmits an information to said client terminal which indicates that the reservation has been registered.

20

2. The lending management system according to claim 1, wherein said server terminal comprises a user certification unit which authenticates a user in accordance with input information of the user and a lending permission unit which
25 checks the user input information, which is provided with

an access right by said user certification unit, and said reservation registration information; in the case that they correspond with each other, permitting to lend said small sized information device.

5

3. The lending management system according to claim 2, wherein said user certification unit carries out the user certification by checking a user ID to be inputted and a password with the user information, which is provided in advance.

10

4. The lending management system according to claim 2, wherein said user certification unit is provided with a magnetic card reader for reading the magnetic card, in which the user ID is registered, and carries out the user certification by checking the user ID and a password with the user information, which is provided in advance.

15

5. The lending management system according to claim 2, wherein said user certification unit is provided with an IC card reader for reading the IC card, in which the user ID is registered, and carries out the user certification by checking the user ID and a password with the user information, which is provided in advance.

20

25

6. The lending management system according to claim 2,
wherein said user certification unit includes a fingerprint
input unit for inputting fingerprint of the user, wherein
said user certification unit carries out the user
5 certification by checking the fingerprint with the user
information, which is provided in advance.

7. The lending management system according to claim 1,
wherein said small sized information device is provided with
10 a lock switching unit for switching operation
possible/operation impossible in accordance with an input
signal,

wherein said server terminal transmits a lock release
signal to the small sized information device, which is
15 already registered on carrying out lending.

8. The lending management system according to claim 1,
wherein said client terminal is provided with a image
transmission method designating unit for designating a
20 method for transmitting an input image data from said small
sized information device having image inputting means, and

said server terminal transmits said inputted image
data in accordance with an image transmission method, which
is designated by the image transmission method designating
25 unit, on returning said small sized information device.

9. The lending management system according to claim 8, wherein the image transmission method, which is designated by the image transmission method designating unit, comprises an electronic computer originated mail.

5

10. The lending management system according to claim 8, wherein the image transmission method, which is designated by the image transmission method designating unit, employs a FTP (file transfer protocol) in a TCP/IP.

10

11. The lending management system according to claim 8, wherein the image transmission method, which is designated by the image transmission method designating unit, comprises a PUT command (file transfer) in a HTTP.

15

12. The lending management system according to claim 8, further comprising a printing unit for printing the input image data on the network,

wherein said small sized information device lending management system transmits the input image data to said printing unit so that said input image data is printed.

13. A small sized information device lending management system comprising:

25 a client terminal connected to a network; and

a server terminal to which a small sized information device can be connected using a cable or radio waves and is constructed by a WWW server connected to said network;

wherein said client terminal specifies said WWW server
5 by a URL to be inputted by the user and transmits information related to reservation for lending said small sized information device, which information is inputted by a user, to said WWW server via said network;

said server terminal receives the information related
10 to reservation from said client terminal, judges whether reservation for lending said small sized information device can be registered or not in accordance with the received information, and if it is judged that the reservation can be registered, registers the reservation and transmits an
15 information to said client terminal which indicates that the reservation has been registered.

14. The lending management system according to claim 13,
wherein said server terminal comprises a user certification
20 unit which authenticates a user in accordance with input information of the user and a lending permission unit which checks the user input information, which is provided with an access right by said user certification unit, and said reservation registration information; in the case that they
25 correspond with each other, permitting to lend said small

sized information device.

15. The lending management system according to claim 14,
wherein said user certification unit carries out the user
5 certification by checking a user ID to be inputted and a
password with the user information, which is provided in
advance.

16. The lending management system according to claim 14,
10 wherein said user certification unit is provided with a
magnetic card reader for reading the magnetic card, in which
the user ID is registered, and carries out the user
certification by checking the user ID and a password with
the user information, which is provided in advance.

15

17. The lending management system according to claim 14,
wherein said user certification unit is provided with an
IC card reader for reading the IC card, in which the user
ID is registered, and carries out the user certification
20 by checking the user ID and a password with the user
information, which is provided in advance.

18. The lending management system according to claim 14,
wherein said user certification unit includes a fingerprint
25 input unit for inputting fingerprint of the user, wherein

said user certification unit carries out the user certification by checking the fingerprint with the user information, which is provided in advance.

5 19. The lending management system according to claim 13, wherein said small sized information device is provided with a lock switching unit for switching operation possible/operation impossible in accordance with an input signal,

10 wherein said server terminal transmits a lock release signal to the small sized information device, which is already registered on carrying out lending.

20. The lending management system according to claim 13,
15 wherein said client terminal is provided with a image transmission method designating unit for designating a method for transmitting an input image data from said small sized information device having image inputting means, and
said server terminal transmits said inputted image
20 data in accordance with an image transmission method, which is designated by the image transmission method designating unit, on returning said small sized information device.

21. The lending management system according to claim 20,
wherein the image transmission method, which is designated
by the image transmission method designating unit, comprises
an electronic computer originated mail.

5

22. The lending management system according to claim 20,
wherein the image transmission method, which is designated
by the image transmission method designating unit, employs
a FTP (file transfer protocol) in a TCP/IP.

10

23. The lending management system according to claim 20,
wherein the image transmission method, which is designated
by the image transmission method designating unit, comprises
a PUT command (file transfer) in a HTTP.

15

24. The lending management system according to claim 20,
further comprising a printing unit for printing the input
image data on the network,

wherein said small sized information device lending
20 management system transmits the input image data to said
printing unit so that said input image data is printed.

25. The lending management system according to claim 13,
wherein said small sized information device lending
25 management system does not transmit the input image data

to said client terminal but stores it in said WWW server.

26. A small sized information device comprising a lock
switching unit for switching operation possible/operation
5 impossible in accordance with an input signal from the
outside.

27. The small sized information device according to claim
26, comprising a displaying unit for displaying rest of a
10 reserved time,

wherein said small sized information device transmits
a lock signal again to said lock switching unit when the
reserved time is over.

15 28. A lending reservation method for reserving lending
of a small sized information device having a lock function
from a terminal via a network comprising:

a user certification step for authenticating a user
with an inputted user ID and a password;

20 a reservation registration/reservation impossible
step for confirming that the reservation is competitive or
notwith respect to a used date of said small sized information
device, which the user, who is authenticated by said user
certification step, desires, registering said reservation
25 when there is not competition in reservation and transmitting

error information to a terminal on the user side when the registration competition occurs;

a reservation registration confirmation step for confirming the user who registers the reservation in said reservation registration/reservation impossible step and
5 said user's reservation information; and

a lock release step for releasing the lock of said small sized information device, which the user, who is confirmed by said reservation registration confirmation
10 step, desires.

29. The lending reservation method according to claim 28, further comprising:

an image transmission method designating step for
15 designating a method for transmitting the image from said small sized information device; and

an image transmission step for transmitting the image in accordance with the image transmission method, which is designated by the image transmission method designating
20 step.

30. The lending reservation method according to claim 29, wherein the image transmission method comprises any one of the electronic computer originated mail, the FTP (file
25 transfer protocol) in the TCP/IP, the PUT command (file

transfer) of the HTTP, a printer output and a method for storing the image in the WWW server.

31. A computer readable recording medium for recording
5 a computer program containing instructions which when executed realizes a lending reservation method for reserving lending of a small sized information device having a lock function from a terminal via a network, the lending reservation method comprising:

10 a user certification step for authenticating a user with an inputted user ID and a password;

a reservation registration/reservation impossible step for confirming that the reservation is competitive or not with respect to a used date of said small sized information
15 device, which the user, who is authenticated by said user certification step, desires, registering said reservation when there is not competition in reservation and transmitting error information to a terminal on the user side when the registration competition occurs;

20 a reservation registration confirmation step for confirming the user who registers the reservation in said reservation registration/reservation impossible step and said user's reservation information; and

a lock release step for releasing the lock of said
25 small sized information device, which the user, who is

confirmed by said reservation registration confirmation
step, desires.